

8 JUN 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Director, Research and Reports

THROUGH : Chief, Economic Research, ORR
THROUGH : Chief, Industrial Division, ORR

FROM : [REDACTED] 25X1A9a

SUBJECT : Report on NORAD Briefing and Visit, 14 May 1959

1. On 14 May I briefed CINCNORAD, General Partridge, and about 30 senior NORAD officers on Soviet guided missile production. The briefing had resulted from a NORAD request through the DD/I representative at NORAD, [REDACTED] that the Agency consider sending certain personnel periodically as "guest" briefers on intelligence topics of NORAD interest. The briefing on Soviet guided missile production was in the nature of a trial to see how such an arrangement would work out. A recent letter from NORAD indicates the briefing was generally well received. Presumably [REDACTED] will provide a complete evaluation of NORAD's reaction to this type of briefing, together with recommendations for future briefings by Agency personnel, if any.

2. The briefing itself covered the status of knowledge about Soviet missile production in general, and Soviet methods in related fields; a discussion of the most recent ICBM estimate and some of the analyses behind it; and, finally, a review of research currently underway which shows promise of improving intelligence on Soviet missile production. In general, the briefing was aimed at describing some of the problems encountered, and the types of research and analysis being used, in attacking this intelligence problem. Judging from comments during the question period by General Partridge and others, the audience seemed quite knowledgeable on current estimates and general developments in the missile intelligence fields. They appeared genuinely interested in receiving information about some of the analyses which lay behind current estimates as well as some of present lines of research in this field.

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3. Following the briefing, I sat in on the NORAD intelligence staff's weekly indications meeting, and later received a tour of the Combat Operations Center and was briefed on the over-all functions and operations of NORAD. Additionally, I spent the remainder of the day with members of the NORAD Research and Estimates Division, discussing in more detail some of the topics which were covered broadly in the morning briefing. This exchange of views was quite profitable.

4. I should like to commend [REDACTED] for his assistance. All of the arrangements for the briefing were very well handled by him. He provided invaluable assistance prior to the briefing in very accurately reviewing for me the composition and interests of the audience as well as their general level of prior knowledge on some of the topics I had included in the briefing. This allowed me to modify certain portions in advance, with the net result that it became more closely keyed to the particular interests of this group. Although I was at NORAD for only a day I got the impression that [REDACTED] was very well regarded by both his associates and superiors and that he was a most effective representative for the Agency.

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CHR/I/GM;RSI;lr/8008 (3 Jun 59)

Distribution:

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